

Excuses, excuses ...

For years my husband, Tom, and I had complained bitterly about the lack of sidewalks in our village. We didn't have enough exercise but we NOT/CAN jog because there were no sidewalks. Tom had often told I, «If only we had sidewalks, we would jog or walk daily and become models of fitness». So we were thrilled when a community sidewalk project was announced, and watched eagerly as paving neared completion. Then the BAD thing happened: wishful thinking and reality collided. «Well, dear,» Tom said. «What'll we use as an excuse for not walking now?» I said I THINK of some excuse.

Traffic lights

Have you ever wondered about the origin of the green, yellow, and red colour scheme for traffic lights? In 1920, in Detroit, the USA, a policeman NAME William L. Potts invented the four-way, three-colour traffic signal. It BASE on the colours used in the railroad system. Thus, Detroit BECOME the first city to use the red, green, and yellow lights to control road traffic.

Yakutia

Yakutia is right in the middle of Russia's far eastern region. Probably Yakutia is one of the COLD parts of Russia. Still, it's a beautiful place. Tourists love VISIT Yakutia because it is a perfect place for photography tours and spending quality time outdoors. You only have to remember that winter NOT/BE a good time to visit the area as winters here are very cold there.

The print brush

As its name suggests, the print brush is a printer that acts like a paint brush. The print brush DEMONSTRATE to public in 2011. It immediately CATCH the attention of designers. If you want to use it, you just swipe it over any flat surface and in less than 10 seconds it prints over it. It is very small and has a digital camera INSTALL. You can connect it to your laptop and literally print any image from it. Isn't it amazing? Since 2011 a lot of people BUY the print brush and are happy with it.

How the Nobel Prize started

Everybody knows about Alfred Nobel. He was the man who GIVE the world a great invention – dynamite. However, Nobel saw that people started USE it for military purposes. That is why the scientist changed his will and introduced the Nobel Prize. The scientist's wish was that people would remember something good about HE.

Antarctica

Many people think that Antarctica is just a block of thin ice. It is, indeed, the **COLD** place on Earth. However, during the summer the sun **NOT/SET** in Antarctica. It means that Antarctica receives **MUCH** sunlight than the equator during that period of time. Another interesting fact about Antarctica is that 90% of the world's fresh water **CONCENTRATE** there. Isn't it amazing?

Blackpool

Blackpool is not on the list of top British places to go, but the northern seaside resort of Blackpool still draws tourists. About 6 million **VISIT** come to the town every year. Most of them are attracted by a great **SELECT** of arcades, shows and a quick few days sprawled on the sands. Speaking about the things which **SYMBOL** Blackpool, these are certainly the Blackpool Tower (an aging copy of The Eiffel Tower) and the Pleasure Beach. The Pleasure Beach has everything from donkey races to places of great **NATURE** beauty. Blackpool's famous sea-front also boasts **TRADITION** trams and horse-drawn carriages and a huge Sea-Life Centre where you can stare a shark straight in the eye. Blackpool is known for a **TRUE** hospitable attitude to tourists, so don't miss a chance to come here at least for a couple of days.

The Crown

Even those people who are not fans of the royal family enjoy the series The Crown. This is **ACTUAL** a palace drama based on a true story. In fact, one of the show's great strengths is that the viewers understand that this story is real.

The first season caught everybody's attention, but The Crown's second season went even deeper into its characters and their **RELATION**.

The most **INTEREST** episodes are undoubtedly the ones devoted to Elizabeth II as a monarch. She has to deal with her prime ministers and the **GOVERN**, with the press, and with the Kennedys.

You can also enjoy the **BEAUTY** settings and the costumes created for the show. And it's **POSSIBLE** to forget some of the scenes from the Second World War history – you won't believe some of the facts presented in the film.

Sakhalin

The island of Sakhalin is situated in the Far East of Russia in the North Pacific, between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan.

SCIENCE say that it is the largest island in Russia with a length of 948 km, and a width of 25 to 170 km, and a total area of about 78,000

square kilometers. Nearly two-thirds of Sakhalin is mountainous. Two parallel ranges of ___**BEAUTY**___ mountains separate the island from north to south.

The ___**GOVERN**___ of Sakhalin region is in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, which was founded in 1882. It is located in the southern part of the island and the ___**POPULATE**___ of the modern city comes to about 180 thousand people. ___**VISIT**___ to the area can enjoy watching gorgeous nature as well as go fishing and rock climbing. It may take you long to get there, but this will ___**CERTAIN**___ be an unforgettable experience.

Mary

When Mary left her office, she walked home to her apartment on Twilight Road. The chill of the early morning made her (1) _____ her hands into the pockets of her stylish jacket and pick up her pace. The weather brought to mind a long-forgotten line from Little Women. One of the sisters – she couldn't (2) _____ whether it was Berth or Amy – said that November was a disagreeable month, and Jo agreed, commenting that that was why she was born in it.

Me, too, Mary thought, "My birthday is November the twenty-fourth. The Thanksgiving baby they called me. Thanksgiving and birthdays (3) _____ to be fun, but not for me. I had to jog between two dinners and there was no one to help me. It was a problem to manage two dinners in different places at the same time. Of course, my domestic problem is small, compared with Millie's," she thought as she (4) _____ her street and turned west. Millie was her best friend and she was in (5) _____.

Yesterday her meeting with Millie was strange. Millie had stayed at the office for about an hour. Over a cup of tea, Millie had insisted that Mary keep the turquoise ring. "If something were to happen to me, it's important that you have it just in (6) _____ the woman who phoned you contacts you again," she had said. She doesn't mean if something happens to her; she means when, Mary thought, as she opened the door and turned (7) _____ the light in her apartment.

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|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. A) lie | B) lay | C) stay | D) put |
| 2. A) realize | B) remember | C) recover | D) remind |
| 3. A) kept | B) took | C) used | D) held |
| 4. A) arrived | B) completed | C) reached | D) achieved |
| 5. A) trouble | B) fault | C) problem | D) failure |
| 6. A) time | B) case | C) event | D) fact |
| 7. A) in | B) of | C) off | D) on |

Gordon

Gordon Fink had felt restless all day. Early Sunday morning he had gone for a run in Central Park. Afterwards he came home and (1) _____ a cheese sandwich. He didn't eat much for breakfast. During his marriage he had been the regular morning chef, but he had got (2) _____ of the habit when his family left. He never bothered to fix anything for himself now. He read the Times while he ate, but (3) _____, after pouring a second cup of coffee, he found he was unable to concentrate, so he (4) _____ down the paper and walked to the window.

It was eleven o'clock. His apartment overlooked the park, and he could see that the sunny day had already brought out a lot of people. There were many couples and family groups. Gordon (5) _____ an elderly woman settle on a bench and turn her face so that the sun shone on it. She looked calm and happy.

He turned away from the window and went into the bedroom. He had to pack for his trip tomorrow, and the prospect irritated him. It was almost over though. There was only one week more of publicity for the book, and then he would take a week off to himself.

The (6) _____ agent had prepared a list of cruise ships with empty first-class space that would accommodate his schedule. He went back to his desk to look at it. Although he trusted his agent, he wanted to choose a cruise ship himself. He looked (7) _____ to having a pleasant rest after a year of hard work.

1. A) cooked B) baked C) did D) made
2. A) over B) out C) down D) up
3. A) definitely B) directly C) finally D) completely
4. A) placed B) arranged C) laid D) rested
5. A) watched B) looked C) viewed D) glanced
6. A) tour B) travel C) trip D) voyage
7. A) on B) in C) through D) forward

Mr. Thoreau in Concord

Concord, Massachusetts, is one of the New England towns that everybody likes to visit.

When tourists (1) _____ Boston they usually make a point of going to Concord by electric train because they have read about the famous battle ground of the great Revolutionary War there. They also want to see the homes of American writers Hawthorne, Emerson, and Thoreau. (2) _____, Concord is the place that everybody likes to visit.

The philosopher Henry Thoreau, who was born in Concord, was (3) _____ on hiking. He loved the town so much that he spent most of his life walking through its fields and forests. You might (4) _____ it was his life's work, for he never had any real profession, and he walked between four to eight hours a day.

When Mr. Thoreau started out on a long walk in the woods, he wore a wide-brimmed straw hat, stout shoes, and strong grey trousers to (5) _____ sure that they would not show spots too easily, and would survive tree-climbing. Under his arm he usually carried an old music book in which to press plants, and in his pocket he kept a pencil and his diary. His friend, William Ellery Channing, often (6) _____ the writer on his walks in the forest. They agreed that a week's camping was more fun than all the books in the world. Once they tried camping in Canada. They wore overalls most of the time, and (7) _____ of suitcases, they tied a few changes of clothing into bundles, and each man took an umbrella. They called themselves "Knights of the Umbrella and Bundle".

1. A) achieve B) reach C) enter D) arrive
2. A) Therefore B) Although C) Moreover D) However
3. A) fond B) crazy C) eager D) keen
4. A) say B) speak C) talk D) tell
5. A) take B) keep C) make D) gain
6. A) attached B) accompanied C) connected D) attended
7. A) against B) outside C) besides D) instead